



DISCIPLES

Disciples Love Our God

Key idea:

Disciples love God with their whole being and express that love in worship with their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Key text:

Deuteronomy 6: 4-5

⁴“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

Key points:

1. Sometimes we treat feelings as though they're ethically neutral. But the Bible speaks often of God's expectations for our emotional life.
2. When God says love Him with all our heart, all our soul, and all our strength; He means we are to love Him with all our entire being; making Him first not just among other things, but in everything.
3. Our sin separates us from God, causes us to hate God, and be at war with God.
4. But despite the huge gulf between us and God, he makes a way through Jesus Christ for us to be reconciled to Him.
5. We respond to God's love for us by worshipping Him, being together with our new family of believers, and growing in a faithful body of Christ.
6. Church is where we grow in discipleship and love for God by learning about the character and goodness of God and about our own desperate need. Church is where we praise God in singing and music; where we share the Lord's table and unite with Him spiritually; where we receive the blessing of God in benediction.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Does discipleship involve our emotional life or is it just about obedience to the rules?
3. What does loving God with all our hearts, all our souls, and all our strength mean?
4. Why does God tell us to love Him with all our being?
5. Is the idea of one God in three persons important to 1) our understanding of the character of God, and 2) the reason He tells us to love Him?
6. Can we love God with all our being, making Him not just first among other considerations, but making Him central in all other considerations?
7. How does the Bible characterize our failure to put God's desires first in everything else we do?
8. What does the perfection of God mean as it's described in Matthew 5:48, "You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."
9. What is worship? Do we tend to worship created things or the creator?
10. What does it mean that we've been born into a new family? Do we have new responsibilities to that family: our Father, elder brother, and brothers and sisters in Christ?
11. Why is it important to attend church and ...
 - Build relationship with fellow believers?
 - Learn about the nature and character of God?
 - Praise God in music and song?
 - Participate in the means of grace such as communion?
 - Receive the Lord's blessing in benediction?
12. Are there other believers with whom you can share what you have learned this week? Pray for them and ask God to open a door for you to share His Word.